ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Forty-Second Annual Session

—OF THE—

UNITY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

PROVIDENCE CHURCH,

Chilton County, Alabama, October 6, 7, and 8, 1896.

OFFICERS:

J. G. LOWERY, MODERATOR_____Clanton, Ala.
W. J. RUDDICK, CLERK_____Stanton, Ala.
W. I. MULLINS, TREASURER_____Clanton, Ala.

The next session will be held with Bethsalem Church, Chilton County, Ala., on Friday, October 5th, 1897.

Montgomery, Ala.:
ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT,
1896.

ADDRESSES OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES TO REPORT NEXT SESSION.

State Missions	F. M. Woods	Jemison,	Ala.
Home Missions	W. J. Ruddick	Stanton,	"
Foreign Missions	W. H. Burns	Plantersville,	"
Bible Schools	H. W. Caffey	Verbena,	"
Temperance	J. M. Smoke	Huckabee,	"
Periodicals	S. L. Loudermilk	Rollins,	"
Orphan's Home	Hardy Jones	Verbena,	"
Ministerial Education	J. H. Longerier	East Lake,	"
Education	W. L. Sampey	Clanton,	"

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Devotional Exercises, 10 a. m. to 11 a. m.
2. Introductory Sermon, 11 a. m.
3. Call to order, after dinner.
4. Letters read.
5. Organization.
6. Read Rules of Decorum.
7. Ministers not messengers invited to seats.
8. Admission of new churches.
9. Correspondence received.
10. Appoint Committees to report this session —
    - On Preaching this session.
    - Letters and Documents.
    - Aged and Infirm Ministers and Families of Deceased Ministers.
    - Deceased Ministers.
    - Nominations.
    - Apportionment.
11. Committees to report next session—
    - On Missions—State, Home and Foreign.
    - Bible schools.
    - Temperance.
    - Periodicals.
    - Orphan's Home.
    - Ministerial Education.
    - Education.
12. Reports are in order after organization.
13. Miscellaneous business when called for.

MINUTES.

OCTOBER 6, 1896.

1. Providence church was the place appointed for the Forty Second session of the Unity Baptist Association. At 10 a. m. devotional exercises were conducted by T. J. Deason, reading the 133d Psalm. Prayers were offered by W. J. Ruddick, B. M. Honeycutt, E. L. Manning and F. M. Woods.

2. In the absence of both the appointee and alternate, F. M. Woods preached the introductory sermon. Text: 102d Psalm, 28th verse. Theme: The prosperity of the church.

3. Recess was taken until 1:30 p. m. for dinner. Dismissed with prayer by W. J. Elliott.

4. After dinner the Association met for business, and was called to order by the former Moderator, J. G. Lowery, who read the 84th Psalm.

W. J. Ruddick led the Association in prayer to the throne of grace.

5. As the letters were brought up, the delegates voted for officers. The old officers were re-elected:

J. G. Lowery, Moderator. W. J. Ruddick, Clerk.

W. I. Mullins, Treasurer.

6. Delegates were enrolled as follows:

Alpine—T. F. Johnson, J. T. Jones.
Bethesda—J. M. Smoke, M. P. Wallace, W. T. Wyatt, W. L. Jackson.
Valley Creek—J. G. Gay, W. W. Gandy, R. B. Barnes.
Verbena—C. B. Gaines, A. L. Haralson, H. W. Caffey, L. Moore.
Evergreen—G. W. Taylor, W. W. Caffey, W. E. Wallace, E. M. Bishop.
Corinth—E. L. Manning, R. D. May, W. D. Goss.
Clanton—W. I. Mullins, W. D. Sartor, J. G. Lowery, F. Woodyard, J. M. Thacker.
Chestnut Creek—P. C. Dennis.
Bozeman—John Gaylor, J. H. Norrell.
Big Spring—W. J. Wyatt, W. W. Wright, L. M. Jones, Wm. Willis.
Bethsalem—J. R. Vinson, R. N. Wilkins, J. N. Askins.
Bethel—G. W. Weaver, J. Meroney.
Mt. Carmel—J. H. Longcrier.
Ebenezer—W. J. Ruddick, O. L. White.

Shiloh—T. J. Deason, R. C. Owen, T. J. Billingsley.
Salem—B. F. Higgins, W. A. Calloway.
Sardis—J. D Deason, S. B. McCary.
Pleasant Grove—D. J. Marchant.
Shady Grove—J. O. Moore, Geo. Underwood.
Plantersville—Geo. Powell, W. H. Burns, W. Letcher.
Mulberry—W. Y. Aitchison, J. C. Veazy, J. L. Palmer, H. A. Williams, J. W. Kincaid.
New Prospect—G. W. Cobnrn.
Mt. Zion—H. C. Young, M. H. Marcus.
Harmony—J. W. Cabaniss, J. H. Griffis, W. N. Durden.
Providence—E. Robison, E. H. Parrish, M. D. Wyatt, J. C. Calloway, T. G. Taylor, J. R. Thomas, W. A. Huckabee.
Friendship—J. L. Long.
Fellowship—J. M. Hooks, D. P. Miller, C. C. Miller, J. E. Terry, W. H. Friday.
Maple Spring—D. F. Jacks, T. W. Wilson, J. Ellis, W. L. Price.

7. The rules of decorum were read by the clerk.

8. The following churches were received into membership in this Association. The Moderator extended the hand of fellowship to their delegates:

Jemison—by letter from the Shelby.
Good Hope—by letter from the Montgomery.

9. Jemison church was represented by F. M. Woods.

Good Hope, by S. L. Loudermilk, F. M. Chapman, J. E. Holland.

10. A letter from Enterprise church was laid on the table until after report of council, appointed at last Association, be made to-morrow.

11. Correspondents were recognized as follows:

From Mulberry Association—R. M. Honeycutt, John Huett.
From Montgomery—W. J. Elliott.
W. J. Elliott also represented the State Board of Missions and the Alabama Baptist.
Mrs. C. W. Ansley, matron of the Orphan's Home, at Evergreen, was present, and was recognized.

12. The Moderator appointed the following committees to report this session:

Preaching this session—Pastor and deacons of Providence church.
Finance—G. W. Taylor, J. E. Terry, J. G. Gay.
Deceased Ministers.—W. B. Srock, J. Kincaid, O. L. White.
Aged and Infirm Ministers—J. M. Smoke, T. J. Deason, J. M. Hooks.
Letters and Documents—P. C. Dennis, W. W. Caffey, W. L. Price.
Nominations—H. W. Caffey, J. H. Griffis, R. B. Barnes.

13. The following brethren were appointed to prepare re-

ports, in lieu of last year's committees :

Foreign Missions—F. M. Woods, M. P. Wallace, W. W. Gandy.
State Missions—W. J. Elliott, S. L. Loudermilk, W. H. Friday.

14. On motion of W. J. Ruddick, the report on Orphan's Home was made the special order for 10 a. m., to-morrow.

15. F. M. Woods made a motion that the reports on State, Home and Foreign Missions be read immediately before the Missionary Sermon to-morrow. And the motion was carried.

16. The report of the committee appointed last session "on repairs of Autaugaville church building," was read. The report was adopted. Four dollars was collected, and paid to G. D. Apperson, the contractor.

17. On motion of J. W. Cabaniss, the Association adjourned until 9 a. m., to-morrow. Prayer by F. M. Woods.

OCTOBER 7TH.

18. The Association convened at 9 a. m. Devotional exercised were conducted by J. L. Long.

19. Minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

20. The report of council appointed last session to visit Enterprise church, was read by W. J. Ruddick. The report was unanimously adopted.

In accordance with that report the Moderator appointed F. M. Woods, J. G. Gay, Moses Robison, committee.

21. On motion, W. J. Ruddick, the present clerk, was elected "stated clerk" of the Association, during life, or good behavior, and the constitution was amended accordingly.

22. Ten a. m. was the hour for the report on Orphan's Home. W. J. Ruddick read it, and Mrs. C. W. Ansley was were invited to speak to us about the Home. W. J. Ruddick also spoke to the report. A collection of $25.00 was taken for the Home, and the following pledges were made, to be paid by January 1, 1897:

Alpine	$ 3 00
Bethesda	2 00
Bethel	2 00
Big Spring	3 00
Bethsalem	1 00

Chestnut Creek	2 50
Corinth	3 00
Ebenezer	5 00
Evergreen	5 00
Fellowship	10 00
Friendship	2 00
Harmony	5 00
Maple Springs	5 00
Mt. Carmel	2 00
Mt. Zion	2 00
New Prospect	2 50
Plantersville	5 00
Providence	2 50
Sardis	2 00
Shady Grove	3 75
Valley Creek	2 50
Verbena	5 00
Good Hope	2 00
Jemison	10 00
Shiloh	5 00
	$92 75

Cash was paid by the following churches:

Clanton	$ 5 00
Friendship	1 00
Mulberry	5 00
Providence	2 50
Salem	3 00
Shady Grove	1 25
Shiloh	1 00
	$19 75

23. The report of the Committee on the report of the council to visit Enterprise church was presented. It was adopted, there being but one dissenting vote.

Enterprise church was then recognized as a member of this Association, and the Moderator gave the hand of fellowship to J. E. White, its delegate.

24. Hardy Jones was recognized as a minister entitled to a seat; and G. M. Parker, representing the State Board of Missions.

25. W. J. Elliot read the report on State Missions, F. M. Woods that on Foreign Missions, and H. W. Caffey on Home Missions. Motions were made to adopt.

26. The Missionary Sermon was preached by W. J. Ruddick.

After the sermon a collection was made for missions, amounting to $9.55.

27. The Association was then dismissed for dinner by R. M. Honeycutt with the benediction.

28. 2 P. M. After singing and prayer, led by J. M. Smoke, the Moderator called the Association to order.

29. The reports on Missions being the order of business, W. J. Elliott read a letter from the State Board of Missions and proceeded to discuss the reports. G. M. Parker, S. L. Loudermilk, H. Jones, W. J. Ruddick and J. H. Longcrier also spoke on the reports, and they were adopted.

30. On motion, the request of the board to raise $200 for State Missions was adopted. A committee was appointed to apportion this amount among the churches, consisting of W. I. Mullins, W. L. Price and J. L. Palmer.

31. The report on Temperance, prepared by W. L. Jones, was read by the Clerk. It was discussed by F. M. Woods (who read an interesting paper), G. M. Parker, W. L. Price and S. L. Loudermilk, and adopted.

32. On motion, the paper read by F. M. Woods was ordered printed in the Minutes.

33. The Association then adjourned until 9 a. m. to-morrow. Prayer by G. M. Parker.

OCTOBER 8TH.

34. 9 A. M. Devotional exercises were conducted by W. L. Price.

35. The Moderator called the body to order, and the minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

36. W. I. Mullins read the report on Bible Schools. The report was discussed by W. I. Mullins, H. Jones, F. M. Woods, J. G. Lowery and S. L. Loudermilk. The report was then adopted.

37. F. M. Woods, J. M. Smoke and J. H. Longcrier were appointed a committee to arrange for a Sunday School Convention.

38. J. H. Longcrier read the report on Education, and W. H. Burns on Ministerial Education.

J. H. Longcrier thanked the Association for what they had

done for him. F. M. Woods and G. M. Parker spoke to the reports, and they were adopted.

39. J. H. Griffis presented the report on Nominations, and F. M. Woods the report on Sunday School Convention. As there was a conflict in the times selected for District Meetings and Sunday School Convention, on motion of S. L. Loudermilk they were recommitted.

40. P. C. Dennis presented the report on Letters and Documents.

W. H. Friday spoke to the report, and moved to amend by striking out Bethsalem and insert Mulberry.

W. L. Price, J. R. Vincent, W. H. Friday, J. L. Palmer and S. L. Loudermilk spoke on the amendment. The amendment was lost and the report was adopted.

41. The Committees on Nominations and Sunday School Convention made a joint report, and it was adopted.

42. J. M. Smoke read the report on Periodicals. The report was adopted after some remarks from J. M. Smoke, W. J. Ruddick, H. Jones, W. L. Price and J. G. Lowery.

43. J. G. Gay, from the Committee on Finance, made its report and it was adopted.

44. W. R. Phillips was recognized as a correspondent from the Birmingham Association.

45. J. H. Griffis moved that the Clerk be paid $20.00 for his services, and $30.00 for 800 copies of the minutes, and the motion was adopted.

46. Adjourned one hour for dinner.

47. 1:30 P. M. The Moderator called the body to order. R. M. Honeycutt led in prayer.

48. J. H. Longcrier presented the claims of Howard College. Cash collected $8.25. Pledges as follows:

Alpine	$ 5 00
Big Spring	5 00
Bozeman	5 00
Clanton	10 00
Mulberry	10 00
Plantersville	5 00
Salem	2 50
Verbena	5 00
Good Hope	1 00
Enterprise	1 00
Total pledges	$49 50

CASH COLLECTED.

Bethsalem	$ 2 00
Harmony	4 00
Mt. Carmel	1 00
Cash	1 25
Total	$ 8 25

49. W. I. Mullins made the report on Apportionment, and it was adopted.

50. J. W. Cabaniss read his report as Missionary Colporter, and in connection therewith the report of the Executive Committee was read by the Clerk. Remarks were made by W. J. Ruddick, J. W. Cabaniss, E. H. Parrish and G. M. Parker, and the reports were adopted.

51. During the discussion on the adoption of the above reports, F. M. Woods moved that—It is the sense of this body that the churches pay the pledges made at the last Association for the support of J. W. Cabaniss.

In addition a cash contribution was made to supplement these pledges. Amount, $21.30.

Fellowship church pledged $5.00 for this purpose.

52. W. I. Mullins made his report as Treasurer, and it was adopted.

53. The Moderator announced committees to report at next session:

State Missions—F. M. Woods, W. I. Mullins, W. J. Fleming.
Home Missions—W. J. Ruddick, T. U. Crumpton, J. G. Gay.
Foreign Missions—W. H. Burns, T. G. Milling, W. H. Friday.
Bible Schools—H. W. Caffey, W. F. Claughton, W. B. Strock.
Temperance—J. M. Smoke, G. W. Patrick, W. W. Caffey.
Periodicals—S. L. Loudermilk, J. M. Robison, E. H. Parrish.
Orphan's Home—Hardy Jones, W. A. Calloway, W. L. Price.
Ministerial Education—J. H. Longcrier, J. C. Veazy, H. E. Wallace.
Education—W. L. Sampey, W. J. Martin, S. P. McCary.

54. A motion to pay the State Board of Missions the sum of $5.75 unappropriated in the hands of the Treasurer, was amended by striking out "State Board of Missions" and substituting "J. W. Cabaniss," and it was so ordered.

55. On motion of F. M. Woods, an Executive Committee was appointed by the Moderator, consisting of F. M. Woods, W. I. Mullens, K. Wells, W. B. Strock and H. W. Caffey.

56. The Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers made their report, and it was adopted.

57. F. M. Woods offered the following:

Resolved, That this Association tender its heartfelt thanks to Providence church, and friends in the community, for the kind and hospitable manner in which we have been received and cared for while among them.

58. On motion of W. J. Ruddick, the whole matter of Missionary Colportage was referred to the Executive Committee.

59. The Moderator having made known his purpose to leave our bounds, he made some very feeling and impressive remarks on closing the Association.

60. S. L. Loudermilk offered the following:

Resolved, That this Association experiences a great loss in the removal of our beloved Moderator, Elder J. G. Lowery, and that our prayers, sympathy and love shall follow him.

61. The business of the Association having been finished, we sang "How firm a foundation," gave the parting hand, were led in prayer by the Moderator, and adjourned to meet with Bethsalem church, Chilton county, Alabama, on Tuesday after the first Sunday in October, 1897.

J. G. LOWERY, MODERATOR.

W. J. RUDDICK, Stated Clerk.

REPORTS.

REPORT ON AUTAUGAVILLE CHURCH.

We, your committee appointed to examine the work, believe that this Association is justly due J. D. Apperson four dollars for the extra work done. Respectfully,

J. M. Smoke,
H. E. Wallace,
W. W. Caffey.

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

Your committee report that we find no indigent ministers in our bounds, except C. C. Billingsley and A. G. Patrick, who have been frequently reported to the Association, and for whom nothing has been done. Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Smoke, Chairman.

REPORT ON ORPHAN'S HOME.

This institution is located at Evergreen, and now owns property that is worth six thousand dollars; but while the property is paid for, it must be remembered that this is not all that is needful. While the orphans have shelter they must have food, and it is a fact that the children eat, drink and wear clothes just like other children. So food and clothes must be provided for them.

Into this home have been received 29 boys and 31 girls, and out of it have gone by adoption 10 boys and 14 girls, and by apprenticeship 2 boys. The girls are never apprenticed.

Most of the children attend literary school, and all of them Sunday-school and church. Eight of them have made profession of faith in Jesus and have been baptized.

There are more applications than there is room, and the Home is in pressing need of a cook room, a laundry room and a dining room; and since there has been some serious sickness in the home, a sick room has been found very essential. Will not our Association do something toward this work—each church pledging some amount that will be paid between now and Christmas, so that much needed repairs and this new work contemplated may be done before the winter sets in. Brethren, these children are God's charge placed upon us. They must be clothed and fed. The Lord has said, "The poor ye have always with you," and has also said, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord." Brethren, let us give, and give now, giving liberally. Respectfully,

W. J. Ruddick.

REPORT ON ENTERPRISE CHURCH.

The committee appointed by this Association to visit and investigate the difficulty in the Enterprise church, beg to report that Bro. J. G. Lowery and J. M. Smoke visited the church and investigated both sides of the trouble. They report that they have decided that the J. E. White party is the church at Enterprise, and Eld. T. E. Taylor stands as an excluded member of said church.

The fact presents itself very forcibly to your committee that J. E. White has made four attempts at reconciliation, and has as many times been repulsed.

Your committee recommend that the matter be again referred to a committee consisting of three wise and prudent brethren for final investigation, and that they report at this session.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. SMOKE,
J. G. LOWERY,
W. J. RUDDICK.

ENTERPRISE, NO. 2.

We, your committee, beg leave to say that we have carefully examined the former report, and recommend that Bro. J. E. White and his party be recognized as THE church at Enterprise, and that their letter be received by this Association and their delegates be allowed seats with us.

Respectfully,

F. M. WOODS,
MOSES ROBINSON,
J. G. GAY,
Committee.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Twenty-one years ago this board was inaugurated in Huntsville, and a year later made its first annual report to the Baptist State Convention.

During the past twenty-one years over $148,885 have been collected and expended in State Mission work by the board, and during that time the board raised for all purposes over $300,000; about 225 Baptist churches have been organized, over 11,000 converts have been baptized, 2,000 Sunday-schools have been organized, 175 Womans' Missionary Societies have been established, and more young ministers have been educated than in years prior to its existence.

The board not only gathers her own special interests under her wings, but those of Home and Foreign Missions, as well as the evangelization of the colored people, indigent ministers and the education of young ministers, together with much other work. The board has extended her wings until she has had under them, at times, nearly every cause nurtured by the Baptists of the State.

The work of the Secretary and his assistants for the past year has been progressive. The results achieved have been gratifying. The board has now only two evangelists. Rev. A. E. Burns labors in a part of North Alabama, and Rev. S. O. Y. Ray is at work in South and Southeast Alabama. The State Convention authorized the board to appoint four more evangelists, but it has not felt assured that they would be supported.

We recommend that our pastors in their ministrations urge more frequently upon their congregations systematic contributions to the cause of missions.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. ELLIOTT, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

In presenting the claims of the Home Mission Board to the attention of this body, no new aspirant knocks at the door seeking your sympathy, but it is the face of a familiar friend coming with "the

old, old story" inviting your co-operation with, and support for, a cause that should be dear to all our hearts.

For many years this board has been engaged in arduous labors to build up the waste places in our loved Southern Zion, and seeking to interest the Baptist brotherhood more deeply in the sad destitution lying at our very doors, and urging them to greater fidelity in discharging the obligations God has laid on them to rescue the perishing by whom they are surrounded. Not only our religious growth and development is involved in the faithful prosecution of this cause, but the well being of the generations that are to follow will be affected, and the prosperity of our Redeemer's kingdom will be advanced or retarded by our action.

Would that we could be properly impressed with the magnitude of this work, and the momentous interests that hinge upon our conduct. Then we would not only pray, "Let thy kingdom come," but with fervent zeal work for such consummation.

In a recent article by the Secretary of the board, Dr. I. T. Tichenor, he says: "The work of our Home Mission Board, under the Divine blessing, has grown into proportions gratifying to our people, and promising us the happiest results in the future. During the last five years the number of missionaries in its employ has averaged about four hundred. The result of their labors has been most inspiring. In that time they have baptized more than twenty thousand believers, constituted more than a thousand churches, organized twice that number of Sunday-schools, and erected more than five hundred houses of worship; and under the trying conditions of the country, the work of the board is going forward with the most gratifying success. In Cuba a temporary depression is being experienced because of the enforced absence of the pastors in consequence of the war now going on in that island, but the work is still being carried on by godly women and the brethren who are permitted to remain in Havana.

From every department of the home work glad tidings come up of the Divine blessing attending the work of our brethren and making them the power of God unto salvation. Let us beware, lest in these troublous times, while so many things are pressing upon our attention, we be forgetful of our mission work and withhold the needed aid. Let us remember that whatever betides our country or selves the Lord's work must go forward, and while it is true the times demand the strictest economy, do not let this retrenchment begin at the house of God, but let us freely, cheerfully and joyfully contribute of the means which our Heavenly Father has bestowed on us to foster and build up his kingdom in the world.

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. Caffey, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

In our conception of missionary enterprise as taught in the Word of God, it is a difficult matter to draw the line between Home and Foreign Missions. If there is taught in the Bible the duty to send the gospel anywhere, there can no point be found at which it should stop. The whole world is the field, and we believe that the Baptist churches should send the gospel to every part of this field, and thank God that he thus allows us to labor for "Him that loved us." In order that we may have intelligent conception of the work of Foreign Missions, we beg to append part of the report of the Committee on Foreign Missions at our last State Convention, as follows:

"Our Papal Missions embrace Italy, Brazil and Mexico. Bro. Tay-

lor's latest report of the work in Italy indicates considerable progress in one or another direction. Number of baptisms, 38; members, 372. While obstacles are great where Romanism has reigned for ages, and while our missionaries have many seasons of grief, they also have times of rejoicing. Wide seed-sowing is being done in Italy, and the time of harvest will surely come. Bro. Eager says: 'In looking back over the year, we feel that we have reason to thank God and take courage.'

"In spite of the war in Brazil, which greatly disturbed the work there, we have much for which we can praise God. Baptisms, 159; members, 519.

"In Mexico, a comparatively large force of missionaries under the direction of Bro. W. D. Powell, are earnestly at work. The year has been one of great blessings on this field. These statistics are full of interest and encouragement:

Number of churches	37
out stations	14
baptisms	277
members	1,163
Sunday-schools	23
scholars	375
Contributed to Foreign Missions	$ 311 75
Home Missions	519 50
other purposes	1,737 27

"Our Pagan Missions are located in Japan, Africa and China.

"In Japan, Bro. McCollum (our McCollum), Mrs. McCollum and Bro. E. N. Walne and Mrs. Walne, with four native assistants, constitute our force in this great empire. The work was begun in 1889. One church and six stations; baptisms, 9; members, 31. Bro. McCollum writes: 'The seeds sown have hardly had time to bear fruit, but there is much in the work to encourage us. I ask you to say to the brethren of the South that we do not plead for houses for ourselves, nor for school buildings, nor for church buildings; but we do plead for men—men to help us preach the gospel to nine million heathen at our doors.'

"In Africa we have 9 missionaries, 7 assistants, 5 churches, 166 members, 24 baptisms; contributions, $123.50. Bro. Newton says: 'The Lord is greatly blessing our work. To his name be all honor and praise. Pray for us that we may be full of the Spirit and power to succeed in saving souls.'

"The China Missions are divided into three: Northern, Central and Southern. Bro. Pruitt, of Northern China, says: 'God has blessed us, and we give thanks to his holy name.' One has said of Central China: 'We feel that God has not withheld his blessings from us.' Of Southern China it may be truly said: 'The Lord is with us—his cause is advancing.' In the China Missions—churches, 13; baptisms, 222; membership, 1,066.

"Alabama Baptists contributed to Foreign Missions for the year ending April 30, 1894, $7,047.68—a fraction over 7 cents per member. In addition to the above, it is pleasant to note that Women's Mission Societies contributed $1,170.00."

In this time of great depression, God is greatly blessing our work in all fields with thankful hearts and usual hopes. Let us turn our faces to the future, lifting our eyes and hearts to God. Let us join our brethren hand in hand, saying as we press forward, "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things; and

blessed be his glorious name forever, and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Respectfully submitted,

F. M. Woods.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Bible, our guide, teaches us to be temperate in all things, and that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven.

We are glad to report rapid growth of public sentiment in favor of the great cause of temperance. The question of legal interference has been settled, and the great good resulting from the prohibition of the sale of intoxicants is clearly seen in every community where it prevails. Prosperity and quiet now reign where reveling and disorder ruled the hour. Much yet remains to be done. The field is inviting; the masses are awakening to the great good there is in this movement. Let all Christians unite, and by earnest prayer, faithful labor and consistent example, hasten the glorious day of deliverance. Let us see that Bible teaching on this subject is taught and enforced.

As a denomination, we should not be satisfied until the entire land is covered by prohibitory laws, and the last drunkard won from his cups. With God's blessings success will crown our efforts. Let us labor and pray for these ends and success will crown our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

W. L. Jones.

TEMPERANCE.

"The word itself is the Pharisee of grammar, the arch hypocrite of the vocabulary of this reform, the blood-guiltiest common noun in the language, a quagmire of definition not to be trusted by the foot of reason, or crossed by any but an empty vehicle of thought.

"What is Temperance? A claret cup, a drop of sherry, a glass of ale, a pint of wine, a schooner of beer, a bottle of whiskey, a shameful night, a blank day, debt, poverty, dishonor, disease, despair, delirium, death."

The cost to the people annually is, in round numbers—

Foreign Missions	$ 5,000,000
All church expenses	150,000,000
Public education	175,000,000
Flour	370,000,000
Tobacco	525,000,000
Sawed lumber	530,000,000
Iron and steel	600,000,000
Meat	915,000,000
Liquor	1,000,000,000

This nation's waste for one national vice is more than the total money available for circulation, twice as much as the total amount in the national treasury, five times as much as the total yearly expenditures of the government, more than four times as much as the combined gold and silver product of the world for 1893, more than would pay the interest on our vast public and private debts, and sixteen times as much as the combined output of our gold and silver for 1895.

It costs every year more than our whole civil service; our army; our navy; our Congress, including the river, harbor and pension bills; our wasteful local government, and all national, State, county and local debts; besides all the schools in the country; in fact, this country pays

more for liquor than for every function of every kind of government.

In 1895 the government paid to the liquor traffic	$1,883,877,549
It received from the liquor traffic	136,289,700
Balance paid to the liquor traffic	$1,747,587,849

Let us notice some results: In 1872 our people drank eight gallons per capita; in 1894, eighteen gallons per capita; and as a necessary result of this—

Direct waste in drink	$1,500,000,000
Labor wasted because of drink	720,000,000
Estimated expense, caused by crime due to drink	225,000,000
" " " " Insanity due to drink	25,000,000
" " " " Pauperism due to drink	50,000,000
" " " " Sickness due to drink	200,000,000
Total waste	$2,720,000,000
Deduct total revenue	174,000,000
Yearly balance against the business	$2,546,000,000

And in addition to this, 60,000 of these miserable victims go down to a drunkard's grave and drunkard's hell every year; and further, it is true that 1,000,000 besotted wretches are staggering out into the blackest night at the rate of 120,000 per year, and that the recruiting stations of death are laying hands on one bright boy from each fifth home every year to keep this army of the lost full at the rate of sixty thousand a year.

This ruthless and insatiable destroyer has sent to the grave and to hell the enormous sum of one hundred and eighty million souls since 1866, more than was slain during the four years of bloody war.

If Satan, by proclamation, were to reassemble the famous Council of Pandemonia, where all the thrones, principalities and powers of hell met in convention, to commission and dispatch a demon to earth best qualified to arrest the progress of civilization, to paralyze the arm of philanthropy, to retard the wheels of the chariot of the gospel of the Son of God, to blight the tearful hopes of the fond mother's heart, and to blast with the mildew of death the aspirations of youth, to turn widows and orphans homeless and friendless out to die, to debauch manhood and prostitute womanhood, to bring grey-haired fathers and mothers, broken-hearted, down to untimely graves; to spread its black wings, like the pall of death, over once happy but now miserable homes; and to swell the population of their own dreadful domain, they could not have sent a more potent fiend to carry on and consummate every item in this black inventory than the hideous monster, INTEMPERANCE.

His successes have met hell's most sanguine hopes. This moment he has millions of our fellow-creatures chained to his burning car, and with wheels rolling in blood and tears, circumvolving upon their axis like lightning down the slippery highway of death, he is dragging them to the drunkard's dreadful home.

Sixty thousand of these miserable victims madly rush over the boundary of human probation into the yawning pit annually in this country. The red flag of death floats out from the top of two hundred and forty thousand legalized barrooms. This hydra-headed monster of iniquity stalks abroad through the land. Its heads are multiplied, so there is a crowned head with poisonous fangs, flashing eyes, forked

tongues and deadly breath for almost every city, village, town and neighborhood in the land.

Often has he been attacked by sainted philanthropists of earth, and as often have they failed; for when their glittering sabers descended, and a head bit the dust,—marvellous power of reproduction!—another, with two-fold fury, reared its dreadful crest and bid defiance to all human effort.

Such a monster is at our very feet, his scaly trunk upreared and his withering necks and hissing heads are oscillating and striking all around us and bleeding at every pore, the insinuating poison of death coursing every vein of the body, searing every fibre of the soul! We are dying as a nation, and the hosts of the dead and dying are the ghastly evidence of the fact. He holds in his iron paw the heart of this nation!

Washington, D. C., supports hundreds of dens for this foe of mankind, at whose shrines Senators and Congressmen offer their devotion, pay their homage, and upon whose altars thousands of young men and blushing maidens are sacrificed annually.

It is slowly but surely destroying the three things upon which the foundation of this government rests—the church, the school, and the home. When these are gone we may dig the grave of our own republic, for the corpse will be ready.

The saloon is the chief and most audacious law-breaker of the age. It is the arch destroyer of all that is dear to man. It is sleepless, relentless, insatiable and a mighty giant.

Four million of Protestant church members quake and tremble at the mention of his name. The authority and power of the law lies broken and dismantled at his feet. The aggregated tears, sobs, groans, dying wails, bitter cursing and agonizing screams of his numberless victims, (which is almost sufficient to crack the azure vault of heaven, cause angels to weep and move God's arm to pity) is not enough to break the stupor, remove the fog cast by political tricksters and partisan demagogues over the minds of the American people.

They cry Party! Party!! Good Money! Bad Money! and quarrel and fight and kill each other, while they and their children are held in the snakey coils of this hell-born serpent.

If the church of the Lord Jesus Christ would rise up in the strength which God supplies and crush this demon, and take the two billion dollars lavished upon this idol of the American people annually and turn it into legitimate currents of trade, in five years this great country would flourish as a green bay tree.

Such a thing as Coxy's Army would never be heard of again, strikes among the laboring class would be a thing of the past, the wail of hard times would die to rise no more, and the finance of the country, whether free silver or gold standard, would adjust itself to the rising tide of prosperity that would necessarily sweep over a nation of sober, Christian people, "whose God is the Lord"

May the Holy Spirit wake up the Christians of this great country to the facts, and help them to be honest with and true to their fellowmen, their wives, their children, and loyal to God.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

We, your committee on Sunday School Convention, recommend that the district meetings be instructed to formulate their programs so as to embrace the Sunday School work, for the following reasons:

1st. Four district meetings and four conventions would be impracticable.

2d. The Sunday-school work should become a part of the business of the district meeting.

We recommend that a pastor's conference be held the day prior to the convening of each district meeting. All pastors in the association are earnestly requested to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. Woods, Chairman.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

We, your committee, report that there is a large majority of our people who are not trying to inform themselves; especially along the line of Christian duty and progress, as there are so few who take our denominaiional paper, the Alabama Baptist. Jt is published for the information of the Baptists of Alabama, and it is surprising that so few of them subscribe for it; and there are some who subscribe for it who never read it.

We find in very many homes other kinds of reading, political papers, story papers, and often novels; very frequently the most miserable trash, enough to make any reasonable person blush. The influence of such literature and publications is demoralizing, and our people should do all in their power to prevent its circulation.

No wonder our Baptist hosts are ignorant of our denominational work, when our own papers are unread. We recommend the Alabama Baptist, The "Foreign Mission Journal" and the literature of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Smoke.

REPROT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Your committee beg to report, That our support to ministerial education is not sufficient for the demands. That the Unity Association contributes only about $78.00 a year for this all important cause, and we urge upon it to raise a larger fund for this purpose the coming year, so that when God calls our young men from the lower walks of life into his service, we will be ready to aid them in their development.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. Burns, Chairman.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

This subject, like many others, is one that should touch at every point the long line of our great Baptist brotherhood. We do not claim that denominational education is the foundation stone of our churches; but we do claim that it is one of the constituent parts of the foundation, upon which all the interests of the denomination are supported. Education is no part of the religion established by the Lord Jesus Christ, and indeed never can be, but the religion of Christ can, and should make education subserve its purposes.

In view of this idea we have buit our denominational Colleges. The corner-stones of these schools for the training of our girls and boys were laid in faith in God, and were consecrated with the tears and prayers of a devoted and loving people. It is in the denominational school alone that the best standard of morals can be set up, for in no other can the doctrines of Jesus Christ be taught as a guide. Are we not correct in saying that the majority of the most proficient workers in Sunday-schools and in missions, at home and abroad, in the pulpit

and in the pew, were educated in denominational schools?

For our sons we have our own beloved Howard at East Lake, which is equal to any other educational institution in the State. To prove this we refer you to her sons who have gone out into the world, therefore it has the right to ask, and good reasons to expect the support of the denomination in Alabama.

The Judson, for our daughters, has a history of which we should be proud. The proficent work in the class room, and the Christian influence at all times of which her students are the recipients, are sufficient reasons why any Baptist who desires the best educational advantages for his daughter should patronize his own denominational school.

It is with sadness of heart that we chronicle the death of our beloved Dr. Averett, who for a number of years has served us so well; but at the same time we with pleasure announce that the school has opened auspiciously with Rev. R. G. Patrick at its head.

In order to approximate if not attain to the highest standard of moral as well as mental culture, the Howard and the Judson have adopted the Bible as a text book. For the above mentioned reasons, as well as many others, your committee most heartily recommends denominational education.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Longcrier, Chairman.

REPORT ON BIBLE SCHOOLS.

Your committee beg leave to submit the following report:

We consider this one of the most important subjects claiming the attention of this Association. The Sunday-school affords one of the best facilities for instructing and shaping the lives of the young and preparing them for usefulness in our church work.

Here the teacher comes in personal contact with the children while their hearts are easily impressed, and offers to him one of the best opportunities to lead the young souls to Christ. It also gives a splendid opportunity for teaching the pure doctrine of God's Word.

We note with pleasure the interest manifested in this work, and yet there remains much to be done. We should never be satisfied until every church in our Association has an evergreen Sunday-school.

The Sunday-school Convention, held with the Mulberry church, though not very largely attended, was a meeting of considerable interest.

We would recommend that a Sunday-school Convention be held in our Association each year, and we urge upon all of our churches to send delegates, with statistics of their Sunday-schools, to these conventions, as one of the best means of fostering and increasing the interest in our Sunday-school work.

The importance of the study of God's Word cannot be over-estimated. Christ, our Lord, has said, "Search the Scriptures." God says, "Teach them to your children." The Holy Spirit says, "They will make you wise unto salvation."

In connection with the Word of God, we would recommend the Sunday-school literature published by our Sunday-school Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

W. I. Mullins, Chairman.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report as follows:

Received for Minutes and associational purposes	$ 55 75
State Missions	42 00
Home Missions	16 09
Foreign Missions	25 87
Colportage	2 30
Orphanage	55 30
Ministerial Education	4 45
Baptist Sunday-school Board	2 20
Howard College	15
Indigent ministers	20
G. S. Anderson (institute work)	1 00
Total	$205 31

This amount has been turned over to the Treasurer.

G. W. TAYLOR, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. I. MULLINS, Treasurer,

In account with Unity Association:

DR.

1896.	To Balance on hand from last report	$126 75	
	Amount collected for Colporteur	43 60	
	Amount collected for Indigent Ministers	4 45	
Oct. 6.	Cash from Finance Committee	205 31	
	Cash from Mulberry church (pledge for Orphan's Home	5 00	$385 11

CR.

By	W. B. Crumpton, receipt	$ 99 90	
	J. W. Cabaniss, receipt	70 45	
	C. C. Billingsley, receipt	2 23	
	A. G. Patrick, receipt	2 22	
	W. J. Ruddick, receipt (minutes)	30 00	
	W. J. Ruddick, receipt (service)	20 00	
	J. H. Longerier, receipt (education)	4 45	
	J. W. Cabaniss, colporteur	2 30	$231 55
	Balance on hand		$153 56

W. I. MULLINS, Treasurer.

REPORT OF J. W. CABANISS, MISSIONARY COLPORTER.

Days of service	169
Miles traveled	1,424
Sermons delivered	168
Addresses made	45
Baptized	12
Baptized by others in connection with my labors	52
Received by letter	15
Restored	6
Sunday-schools organized	7
Sunday-school addresses	32

Prayer meetings organized	10
Prayer meetings held	50
Number of churches visited	67
Number of visits made	90
Subscribers to Alabama Baptist secured	41
Pages of tracts distributed	100
Meeting houses commenced	1
Money collected for meeting houses	$25 00
Money collected for State Missions	72 75
From Unity Association.	

This report is not full, for the reason that my reports for one quarter and part of another are lost. I have sold about $70.00 worth of books; have on hand about $7.00 worth. I am due the Baptist Publication Society $29.36. Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Cabaniss.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

At a full meeting of our committee, we recommended that we co-operate with the State Board of Missions in our associational work. We entered into a contract with Bro. J. W. Cabaniss to serve as Missionary Colporteur for this associational year for the sum of $200.00, provided we could raise said sum in the Association. We further agreed with Bro. Cabaniss that he should make regular quarterly reports to this committee, and also to Dr. Bledsoe, Secretary and Treasurer of our State Board of Missions. The above contract was made December 11, 1895. We have made an earnest effort to raise said amount, and have received and paid out to Bro. Cabanis, by W. I. Mullins, Treasurer, $72.75. J. G. Lowery, Chairman.

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

Your Committee on Apportionment suggests that the churches raise for missions the following amounts during this associational year:

Bozeman	$ 40 00
Bethel	2 50
Clanton	30 00
Chestnut Creek	15 00
Corinth	5 00
Evergreen	20 00
Friendship	6 00
Bethsalem	4 00
Harmony	10 00
Mulberry	30 00
Mt. Zion	16 00
Maple Spring	5 00
Chestnut Hill	2 00
Big Springs	12 00
New Prospect	5 00
Fellowship	35 00
Providence	18 00
Randolph	15 00
Mt. Carmel	8 00
Alpine	6 00
Sardis	3 00
Shiloh	6 00
Verbena	30 00

Shady Grove	15 00
Pilgrim's Rest	4 00
Valley Creek	22 00
Ebenezer	35 00
Plantersville	17 00
Salem	5 00
Jemison	30 00
Good Hope	5 00
Enterprise	2 00
Pleasant Grove	1 50
Total	$450 00

W. I. MULLINS, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

We recommend the following:

Introductory Sermon next session by J. M. Smoke; alternate, R. H. Long.

Missionary Sermon by F. M. Woods, alternate, J. W. Mitchell.

Delegates to Alabama State Convention—J. G. Lowery, H. W. Caffey, W. J. Ruddick, W. H. Burns, T. U. Crumpton, W. I. Mullins.

Delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention—F. M. Woods.

PROGRAMS FOR DISTRICT MEETINGS.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Time—Friday before the 5th Sunday in January, 1897.
Place—Evergreen church.

Friday—11 a. m. Sermon, by S. L. Loudermilk.
2 p. m. How can we enlist our churches in our denominational work?
Opened by Thos. Maroney.

Saturday—9 a. m. Devotional exercises, by Wilburn Durden.
9:30 a. m. Importance of enforcing discipline in our churches; by G. W. Taylor.
11 a. m. Sermon, by R. H. Long.
2 p. m. Missions, by H. M. Pool.

Sunday—9 a. m. Sunday School mass meeting, conducted by J. H. Griffis.
11 a. m. Missionary sermon, by J. W. Mitchell.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Time—Friday before 5th Sunday in May, 1897.
Place—Shiloh church.

Friday—11 a. m. Sermon, by J. L. Long.
2 p. m. How can we promote spiritual growth in our churches? W. I. Mullins.

Saturday—9 a. Devotional exercises, by A. C. Pool.
9:30 a. m. The importance or religious training in the family. By H. W. Caffey.
11 a. m. Sermon, by J. W. Cabaniss.
2 p. m. Missions, by P. C. Dennis.

Sunday—9 a. m. Sunday School mass meeting, by Judson Strock.
11 a. m. Missionary sermon, by F. M. Woods.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Time—Friday before the 5th Sunday in August, 1897.
Place—Mulberry church.
Friday—11 a. m. Sermon, by J. H. Longerier.
2 p. m. Importance of Sunday School work, by W. J. Fleming.
Saturday—9 a. m. Devotional exercises, by S. R. Rasberry.
11 a. m. Sermon, by T. J. Deason.
2 p. m. Missions, by W. L. Sampey.
Sunday—9 a. m. Sunday School mass meeting, by W. L. Jones.
11 a. m. Missionary sermon, by W. J. Ruddick.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Time—Friday before 5th Sunday in October, 1897.
Place—Valley Creek.
Friday—11 a. m. Sermon, by A. M. Perry.
2 p. m. The duty of Baptists to teach their distinctive principles, by W. H. Burns.
Saturday—9 a. m. Devotional exercisess, by R. J. Mitchell.
9:30 a. m. Bible and Colportage work. J. G. Gay.
11 a m. Sermon, by J. W. Dunaway.
2 p. m. Missions, J. F. Johnson.
Sunday—9:30 a. m. Sunday School mass meeting, by T.G. Milling.
11 a. m. Missionary Sermon by W. H. Connell.

H. W. Caffey,
J. H. Griffis,
Ross Barnes,
Committee.

LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

Your committee beg leave to recommend that in order to assist this committee in its work, the church clerks be requested to use the printed blanks, to be furnished by the clerk of the Association.

We are pleased to report that the missionay spirit is increasing; that the majority of the churches report revivals; and that about one-half report good Sunday-schools with an average attendance of 500. We see no reason why we should not make greater progress during the coming year

We recommend that the next session be held with Bethsalem church.

Respectfully submitted,
P. C. Dennis, Chairman.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Adams, S. M	Jemison,	Ala.
Billingsley, C. C	Billingsley,	"
Bone, W. J	Kincheon,	"
Cabaniss, J. W	Independence,	"
Deason, T. J	Kincheon,	"
Elam, T. J	Randolph,	"
Hand, J. L	Rollins,	"
Jones, H	Verbena,	"
Johnson, J. H	Clanton,	"
Long, J. L	Bozeman,	"

Long, R. H	Coopers, Ala.
Loudermilk, S. L	Rollins, "
Manning, E. L	Burwell, "
Ruddick, W. J	Stanton, "
Smoke, J. M	Hnekabee, "
Woods, F. M	Jemison, "

DISTRICTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

FIRST—Autaugaville, Bethesda, Big Spring, Bethel, Evergreen, Harmony, Shady Grove.

SECOND—Bethsalem, Bozeman, Chestnut Creek, Friendship, New Prospect, Shiloh, Verbena, Corinth, Enterprise, Good Hope.

THIRD—Clanton, Mt. Zion, Salem, Providence, Maple Springs, Mulberry, Jemison.

FOURTH—Alpine, Chestnut Hill, Ebenezer, Mt. Carmel, Pleasant Grove, Fellowship, Plantersville, Randolph, Sardis, Valley Creek, Pilgrim's Rest.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. The officers of the Association shall be chosen by the suffrages of the membership present.
3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have discretionary right to call to order at any time.
4. Any member not satisfied with this decision may appeal to the Association the same day, but at no other time.
5. But one member shall speak at a time, and he shall rise, and obtaining permission, proceed; such permission being signified by the Moderator naming the person, or otherwise.
6. No person shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject; and every motion made and seconded, in order, shall come under the consideration of the Association, and be decided, unless withdrawn by him who made it.
7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another is offered.
8. When a question has been introduced, and sufficient time allowed for debate, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association upon the subject; those in the affirmative shall make it known by saying aye, and those opposed shall make it known by saying nay.
9. The appellation "brother" shall be used in the Association when one brother addresses another, but this article shall not be so construed as to ignore the Moderator.
10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the Moderator.
11. The names of the delegates shall be called as often as the Association shall direct.
12. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoints another to his seat; but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided. He may also appoint committees necessary for transacting any business that may, from time to time, come before the Association.
13. Any member violating these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator, but only on the day such violation occurs.

14. These rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and may be altered or amended whenever a majority of the membership present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only living and true God—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; these three are one.—1 Cor. 8:6; Deut. 6:4; Mat. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 5:7.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only correct rule of faith and practice. —2 Peter 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.—1 Peter 1:25; Eph. 1:4; 2 Thes. 2:13.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.—Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 3:10.

5. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature.—Rom. 5:6; John 6:44; Eph. 2:1-5; Phil. 2:13.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.—Rom. 5:1; Gal. 2:16-20.

7. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.—2 Cor. 12:9; Col. 3:4; Rom. 8:38, 39.

8. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the church of Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion only is baptism.—Mat. 3:5, 6, 13, 16; Acts 2:37, 38; Acts 8:38, 39.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.—Acts 17:31; John 5:28, 29.

10. We believe that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting.—Mat. 25:46.

11. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances except those who are called of God and have been regularly baptized, approved by the church and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery.—1 Tim. 4:14; Acts 26:16.

12. We believe that none but regularly bapfized believers have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.—Acts 2:42-44; 2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor. 11:23-29.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as "THE UNITY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION," and shall be composed of delegates from such churches as constitute, or may hereafter unite with this body.

ART. 2. The design of its labors shall be to promote the cause of Christ and to encourage those objects supported by Baptists generally.

ART. 3. This Association shall hold its sessions annually, at such a time and place as it may appoint.

ART. 4. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator and

Treasurer—to be elected annually—and a stated Clerk, elected for life or good behavior—each of whom shall perform all the duties appertaining to such offices in similar bodies; and in the case of the absence of any officer one pro tem. shall be appointed by the Association until an election is declared.

ART. 5. A record of the proceedings of this Association shall be kept by the Clerk, and, as soon as practicable after the close of each session, he shall superintend the printing of the minutes thereof, and shall furnish each church with a suitable number of copies.

ART. 6. Any church subscribing to our Abstract of Faith may be admitted into this Association by consent of the members in session.

ART. 7. Any church orthodox in faith and practice, and which has complied with this Constitution, may withdraw from this body by the consent of a majority of the members in session.

ART. 8. This Association, in regular session, may dissolve its connection with any church which may differ with it in doctrine and practice.

ART. 9. Any church of this Association, with thirty members or less, shall be entitled to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional twenty-five members or fractional part thereof.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of each church to forward a written communication to every session, specifying the names of its delegates, and the state of the church.

ART. 11. If a difficulty should arise in a church, which cannot be settled thereby, the church shall call aid from two or more sister churches; if the matter cannot then be adjusted, it shall be referred to the Association for advice.

ART. 12. All queries must be acted upon by the churches in which they may originate, and when they fail to be disposed of therein, must be reported, by letter, to the Association; the decision thereof shall be considered as an advisory answer.

ART. 13. This Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted and paid over to the Finance Committee, and said committee to pay over to the Treasurer.

ART. 14. Any article of this Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present at any regular session.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF THE UNITY ASSOCIATION—1896.

CHURCHES.	Minutes and Association.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Bible and Colportage.	Indigent Ministers.	Orphan's Home.	Greensboro Church.	Ministerial Education.	Howard College.	Institute Work.	Total	Pastor's Salary.	Expense and Repairs.	Value of Church Property.
Alpine	$ 2 00	$ 91	$ 1 00	$ 1 00	$ 2 00	$	$	$	$ 5 00	$	$	$ 11 91	$ 60 00	$	$ 300 00
Autaugaville															600 00
Bethel	1 00	2 75										3 75			400 00
Bethesda	3 00	6 50	4 50	2 50			1 00					17 50			500 00
Bethsalem	1 75											1 75			250 00
Big Spring	2 00	2 00	2 00	3 62	3 10				5 00			17 72	80 00		800 00
Bozeman	1 50	12 05	12 50	69 43			30 10		9 50	32 50		167 58	360 00		1500 00
Chestnut Creek	75			2 20	2 70		1 75					7 40	81 00		500 00
Clanton	2 00	2 65	2 50	5 88	5 00		14 35	6 25				38 63	200 00	75 00	1300 00
Corinth	1 00			2 65	3 00							6 65			100 00
Ebenezer	2 50	4 26	2 00	6 00	2 05			5 00				21 81	180 40		1000 00
Enterprise	1 00										1 00	2 00			
Evergreen	3 00	14 00	2 00	2 00					5 00			26 00			
Fellowship	2 50	14 40	3 05	12 55	10 00		23 45					65 95	150 00	18 00	500 00
Friendship	1 25	15	15	15	70	20				15		2 75	15 00	9 90	200 00
Good Hope	2 00	1 00	1 00	1 00			1 00					6 00	25 00		150 00
Maple Spring	1 50		1 50	1 50			3 50					8 03			400 00
Mt. Carmel	2 00								1 77			3 77			400 00
Mt. Zion	1 00	3 00	2 00	1 50			1 00					8 50	50 00		350 00
Mulberry	2 50	1 87		7 35			2 00		6 35			20 07	100 00		800 00
New Prospect	2 00											2 00			150 00
Plantersville	2 50		4 00	4 00	2 95					1 95		15 40	150 00		400 00
Pleasant Grove	1 50											1 50			500 00
Providence	1 50	2 57			2 50		5 30					11 87			300 00
Pilgrim's Rest															350 00
Randolph															300 00
Sardis	1 50								2 50			4 00			150 00
Salem	1 50											1 50	25 00		150 00
Shady Grove	3 00											3 00			800 00
Shiloh	2 50											2 50			400 00
Valley Creek	1 50	5 00	2 95	2 50	5 00	3 20	4 20		5 00	7 50		36 85	60 00		400 00
Verbena	1 50	18 90	12 00	13 50			5 75		5 50			57 15	150 00		2000 00
Harmony	2 00	8 00										10 00			500 00
Collected at Association		9 55			21 30		25 00			8 25		64 10			
Total	$55 25	$ 109 56	$53 15	$ 139 33	$60 30	$ 3 40	$ 118 40	$11 25	$45 62	$50 35	1 00	$ 647 61	$1576 40	$ 102 90	$ 16,400 00

STATISTICS OF UNITY ASSOCIATION—1896.

CHURCH.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POSTOFFICE.	Membership last Reported.	Increase by Baptism.	Increase by Letter.	Increase by Voucher.	Increase by Restoration.	Decrease by Letter.	Decrease by Exclusion.	Decrease by Erasure.	Decrease by Death.	Present Membership.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Officers and Teachers.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Pupils.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. SUPERINTENDENTS.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.
Alpine	A. M. Perry	J. T. Jones	Plantersville	86	8	1			3	1			91				3	1	1
*Autaugaville				8									8						
Bethel	A. M. Perry	G. W. Weaver	Vine Hill	41	14	3		1	3			1	55				1		
Bethesda	J. M. Smoke	W. L. Jones	Independence	100	1								101	6	50	M. D. Wyatt, Independence	4		
Bethsalem	John Huett	J. R. Vinson	Kincheon	58	3				5				56				4		1
Big Spring	J. W. Cabaniss	W. N. Gaines	Billingsley	108	5	3		1	3				114	3	25	W. J. Wright, Independence	2		1
Bozeman	J. M. McCord	J. T. Levens	Bozeman	109	6	5			4	1			115	9	65	H. Evans, Bozeman	1&3	1	1
Chestnut Creek	J. L. Hand	J. W. Dennis	Coopers	91	16	5			6	1		2	103	7	80	D. Moore, Coopers	3		1
*Chestnut Hill				53					37				16						
Clanton	J. G. Lowery	W. I. Mullins	Clanton	84	9	5			2	1	1		94	8	132	W. I. Mullins, Clanton	3	1	1
Corinth	T. E. Taylor	W. B. Jones	Burwell	51	1				1	1		3	47	4	35	E. L. Jones, Burwell			
Ebenezer	W. J. Ruddick	J. H. Mitchell	Stanton	91	4	11			1			1	101	5	50	W. C. Dyer, Stanton	4	1	1
Enterprise		J. E. White	Energy										12						
Evergreen	W. J. Ruddick	E. M. Bishop	Huckabee	91					1	1		1	88			W. A. Overstreet, Huckabee	3		
Fellowship	J. W. Dunaway	C. W. Bailey	Plantersville	194	7	1		2	3	3		2	196				3		
Friendship	E. L. Manning	J. L. Long	Bozeman	30		1			1	1	10		19	3	27	J. L. Long, Verbena	4		
Good Hope	J. L. Hand	O. K. Holland	Deatsville										43	6	18	N. W. Muse, Prattville	1		
Harmony	J. W. Cabaniss	W. C. Adair	Huckabee	36	5	5		1	1			1	45				1		
Jemison	F. M. Woods	L. C. Day	Jemison										124			L. C. Day, Jemison	3	1	
Maple Spring	R. H. Long	W. F. Jones	Coopers	32	19	8			2			1	56			W. L. Price, Coopers	3	1	1
Mt. Carmel	A. M. Perry	G. W. Patrick	Stanton	91	7			1	5	1	25		71			W. M. Robuck, Stanton	4	1	1
Mt. Zion	L. B. Pounds	D. H. Mullins	Jumbo	47	4								51		30	D. H. Mullins, Jumbo	2		
Mulberry	F. M. Woods	J. C. Veazy	Lily	160	9	3		2	1	1			172	5	57	J. L. Williams, Lily	4	1	1
New Prospect	J. C. Thomas	B. M. Rollinson	Bozeman	40	4		4		1	1			46				2		1
Plantersville	J. A. McCrary	C. H. Lawrence	Plantersville	40	14	9							63				4		1
Pleasant Grove	G. W. Freeman	J. P. Merchant	Shoults	62	7	3			1	4		1	66	3	60	J. P. Merchant, Shoults	1	1	1
*Pilgrim's Rest	T. E. Taylor	J. T. Anderson	Stanton	29									29				4		
Providence	R. M. Honeycutt	R. Robinson	Clanton	139					3	3		3	130				1		
*Randolph				33									33						
Sardis	T. J. Deason	S. B. McCary	Maplesville	56					5				51				2	1	1
Salem	W. J. Bone	T. L. Robinson	Verbena	50						3			47	7	60	N. J. Callaway, Verbena	4	1	1
Shady Grove	J. M. Smoke			21									21				3		
Shiloh	T. J. Deason	J. W. Billingsley	Kincheon	99	6	12				1		1	115				3	1	1
Valley Creek	J. W. Mitchell	W. W. Gandy	Plantersville	58	9	2			1				68	7	40	J. G. Gay, Plantersville	2	1	1
Verbena	F. M. Woods	W. H. Strock	Verbena	65	12	1			3	1		1	73		30	H. W. Caffey, Verbena	1	1	1
Total				2256	170	78	4	8	93	25	36	18	2423	73	759				

*Not represented.

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING AND OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION FROM ITS ORIGIN TO THE PRESENT.

Year.	Place of Meeting.	Preacher of Introductory Sermon.	Moderator.	Clerk.	Treasurer.
1855	Shady Grove	J. R. Sartor	B. B. Smith	J. N. Gradick	J. Nunn
1856	Plantersville	A. C. Patillo	B. B. Smith	J. I. Lamar	J. Nunn
1857	Mulberry	A. Andrews	B. B. Smith	J. I. Lamar	J. Nunn
1858	Kingston	D. M. Lloyd	J. D. Moodie	J. I. Lamar	J. Nunn
1859	Harmony	J. H. Ray	I. U. Wilkes	J. I. Lamar	J. Nunn
1860	Ebenezer	J. D. Moodie	I. U. Wilkes	J. I. Lamar	J. Nunn
1861	Chestnut Creek	W. Wilkes	I. U. Wilkes	J. I. Lamar	L. B. Parker
1862	Bethesda	A. Andrews	I. U. Wilkes	A. L. Haralson	L. B. Parker
1863					
1864	Randolph				
1865	Plantersville	A. Andrews	A. Andrews	W. R. Gandy	L. B. Parker
1866					
1867	Fellowship				
1868	Harmony				
1869	Bethel	A. Andrews	A. Andrews	W. C. Adair	L. B. Parker
1870	Mt. Hebron	W. Lee	A. Andrews	W. C. Adair	L. B. Parker
1871	Mulberry	J. Allen	A. Andrews	W. C. Adair	L. B. Parker
1872	Chestnut Creek	W. Lee	A. Andrews	J. L. Williams	W. C. Adair
1873	Big Spring	J. A. Mullins	A. Andrews	H. E. Longerier	W. C. Adair
1874	Plantersville	G. W. Mills	A. Andrews	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1875	Mount Zion	W. Lee	William Lee	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1876	Ebenezer	J. A. Mullins	William Lee	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1877	Harmony	A. Andrews	William Lee	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1878	Chestnut Creek	F. M. Vines	A. Andrews	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1879	Fellowship	A. L. Blizard	A. Andrews	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1880	Bethesda	G. W. Mills	J. Falkner	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1881	Mulberry	H. E. Longerier	J. Falkner	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1882	Shiloh	A. Andrews	J. Falkner	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1883	Randolph	G. W. Mills	J. Falkner	H. E. Longerier	K. Wells
1884	Harmony	W. N. Huckabee	J. Falkner	T. M. Henley	K. Wells
1885	Friendship	J. A. Mullins	A. J. Brooks	T. M. Henley	K. Wells
1886	Clanton	Hardy Jones	A. J. Brooks	T. M. Henley	K. Wells
1887	Plantersville	J. Falkner	A. J. Brooks	T. M. Henley	K. Wells
1888	Verbena	W. J. Ruddick	A. J. Brooks	W. J. Ruddick	K. Wells
1889	Ebenezer	G. W. Mills	A. J. Brooks	W. J. Ruddick	K. Wells
1890	Big Springs	J. W. Mitchell	A. J. Brooks	W. J. Ruddick	K. Wells
1891	Mount Carmel	J. M. McCord	A. J. Brooks	W. J. Ruddick	K. Wells
1892	Chestnut Creek	H. Jones	A. J. Brooks	W. J. Ruddick	K. Wells
1893	Evergreen	J. W. Dunaway	J. W. Dunaway	W. J. Ruddick	K. Wells
1894	Mount Zion	W. J. Ruddick	J. G. Lowery	W. J. Ruddick	W. I. Mullins
1895	Fellowship	J. G. Lowery	J. G. Lowery	W. J. Ruddick	W. I. Mullins
1896	Providence	F. M. Woods	J. G. Lowery	W. J. Ruddick	W. I. Mullins

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